

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON AGING
Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Present: Fran Bond, Natasha Iheme, Lou Marino, Roy Moreland, Al Muehlberger, Mabel Murray, Marlene Siegel, Sherita Thomas, Melody Truffer

Absent: Lisa Budlow, Dorothy Foos, Don Gabriel, Fred Murphy, Sheila Roman

Staff: Dayna Brown, Patti Madigan, Phyllis Myers, Laura Riley

I. Start Time—9 a.m.

II. Agenda and Minutes

- The agenda and minutes were approved as submitted

III. Announcements

- Public Ethics Law Training—Tuesday, May 18th—2 p.m.
 - ✓ The COA represents the County and should be aware of the public ethics law
 - ✓ All COA members were encouraged to attend the training

IV. BCDA Employee Spotlight

- Patti Madigan, Manager, Senior Employment and Housing Office
 - ✓ Patti has worked with BCDA for approximately 34-35 years
 - ✓ Patti updated everyone on the Senior Community Service Employment Program also known as SCSEP
 - ✓ SCSEP is a federal grant that is over 60 years old
 - ✓ Currently, BCDA receives \$685,000 per year to enroll up to 80 individuals for a 20 hour per week, minimum wage (\$11 per hour) position with the goal and objective that each participant will gain unsubsidized employment
 - ✓ Patti and one other BCDA staff member (Amy Weaver) manage this program

- ✓ SCSEP partners with community service organizations for job placements; the grant describes these organizations as non-profit (501C3) or government agencies; individuals are placed into various positions in order to build new skills and prepare for employment
- ✓ Qualified individuals for this program must be 55 or older, at poverty level, reside in Baltimore County, unemployed and have not participated in this program for more than 4 years
- ✓ Priority is given to individuals who are: Veterans or spouses who have lost someone due to combat; homeless or at risk of homelessness; people with disabilities; Limited English Proficient; low literacy; people with low employment prospects or failed to obtain employment even after working with Workforce Development team
- ✓ Referrals to the SCSEP program come from the Workforce One-Stop operating centers (employment centers); there are three in the Baltimore County area—Liberty, Eastpoint and Hunt Valley; workers who do not meet the SCSEP eligibility requirements are also referred to these locations for assistance
- ✓ Referrals are also received from social workers, the disability community, the Community Assistance Network (CAN), senior centers and Maryland Access Point
- ✓ During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Labor continued to pay the individuals currently in the program; as of now, there are only 55 participants enrolled in the Baltimore County SCSEP program and only four of the 50 host agencies are active because of the pandemic; approximately five participants just recently went back to working at the BCDA's senior centers
- ✓ Patti will get the marketing tools to Phyllis to send out to COA members to help promote the program
- ✓ Patti and Amy must follow-up with each participant every quarter for up to 18 months to track their progress after they leave the program

V. Old Business

- Vice Chair Position
 - ✓ Currently, Roy is the only COA member who expressed interest in this position
 - ✓ At the June meeting there will be a confirmation and vote

- Bylaws
 - ✓ Any amendments and/or changes were asked to be submitted by May 1 for Sherita, Mabel, Laura and Dayna to review
 - ✓ Laura will edit to make sure it reflects current practice and is in sync with Baltimore County Government structure; she'll forward all edits and changes to Mabel and it will be reviewed at the June meeting
 - ✓ COA will have the summer break to review and bring up suggestions, edits, comments, etc. at the September meeting
 - ✓ Mabel says the COA Bylaws lack clarity; she would like to make them more succinct with stronger language; the sections are out of date; the name, purpose and membership needs clarity; there is no disciplinary process; no optional articles; effective dates need to be added
 - ✓ Natasha, Marlene, Roy and Fran joined the By Law committee

VI. New Business

- Senior Center Visits
 - ✓ Starting May 17, nine of the senior centers will be re-opening by appointment only for members to re-register; there are no drop-in visits
 - ✓ BCDA anticipates that by July centers will start having activities via appointment only
 - ✓ Senior Center Council meetings are still being held
 - ✓ Sherita suggested creating a list; COA members should send Phyllis the names of at least two or more centers they are willing to visit; Phyllis can compile a list to be sure all centers are covered
 - ✓ Phyllis will be sending COA members a list of senior centers and their addresses
- Ideas Worth Sharing
 - ✓ Sherita did a quick overview of the functions of the layout button and chat section of WebEx
 - ✓ Sherita and Laura are looking to do something similar to a virtual happy hour where COA members can chat and have a little fun
 - ✓ Roy suggested getting together over the summer for a luncheon
 - ✓ Al suggested acknowledging birthdays each month
 - ✓ Melody suggested a welcome type of event for the re-opening of senior centers

VII. Director's Comments

- ✓ May 17—Senior centers, libraries and recreation and parks will re-open with limited capacity in libraries; BCDA will have a least one staff member in each office
- ✓ At the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 all staff were approved for teleworking, beginning around June 1, staff will need to re-apply and depending on the job type and frequency, staff may or may not be approved
- ✓ BCDA's Run/Walk will be the department's first ever hybrid event; people can participate virtually or in person; the date is September 19, 2021
- ✓ Volunteer Appreciation drive-thru events will be held in lieu of the annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon that was normally held at Martin's West; the locations are Catonsville, Jacksonville, Parkville and Ateaze; Volunteers will receive a bag lunch and an appreciation gift; Laura invited COA members to join staff in making it a fun day for the volunteers
- ✓ 57% of BCDA staff have been vaccinated, close to the 60% goal of the Baltimore County Health Officer to re-open safely
- ✓ 90% of the 85+ category have been vaccinated; clinics are now walk-ins because the demand has dropped dramatically
- ✓ The County is now vaccinating homebound clients five days a week and LifeBridge Health, who has partnered with the County, is doing an additional two days a week; an average of 50 homebound clients per day are being vaccinated

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 10:32 a.m.